

Press-Herald

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License Is Not Freedom

The word "license" comes from a Latin word meaning "to allow." If you have a "license," it means you have asked permission from a governmental authority to do a certain act, or engage in a certain activity. You may, or may not, get the license. The matter is for the authorities to decide.

Of course, the public is protected by some licensing. It makes good sense, for example, that persons in the practices of medicine and pharmacy be required to pass stiff licensing examinations, and that the licenses be subject to review. The same might be said for other professions and crafts engaged in important work affecting the general public. But in a democracy, the licensing of knowledge doesn't work.

Licensing is the exact opposite of freedom. If those who gather news, and comment on it, were required periodically to renew their licenses, this by itself would act to stultify the full feeling of freedom with responsibility so necessary to anyone handling news of public affairs. Licensed newspapermen wouldn't feel free. They wouldn't be free.

American newspapers broke away from licensing before the American Revolution. The first colonial newspaperman to print an "unlicensed" newspaper was James Franklin. In 1721 he established the "New-England Courant", a lively outspoken, trouble-making newspaper. Before that time newspaper publishers took their copy to government censors and "cleared" it before publication. "News" before Franklin's time was generally limited to facts and opinions which officials thought safe for the public to read. Franklin took out vigorously after the pompous religious and political authorities, dropped the words "Printed by Authority" from his front page, and was thrown into jail. His New-England Sourant folded, and the old licensing power was revived.

After Franklin's young brother, Benjamin, made newspaper publishing respectable, there was little further attempt to control colonial newspapers. Some historians say it was largely the work of skilled journalists and propagandists who brought the American Revolution about. From the 1600s in England down to the present time, men who print the news have been very sensitive to any effort by government to censor news before it is published.

There are men in government who would be only too happy to censor your news. There are strong departments in the federal government now, which impose an "internal censorship" on news. There has even been official justification for telling deliberate falsehoods, so clearly enunciated by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Arthur Sylvester, who defined news as "weaponry", and declared that where news is concerned, the ends justify the means. News about government is getting more difficult to report, each day.

Yet, fear of the government censor is not in the mind of American newspapermen. Other media are licensed. Those who minimize the effect of licensing on free speech should ask themselves: "When did I last hear outspoken criticism of the F.C.C. over radio or TV? Or, for that matter, strong editorial comments about anything else in government?"

The people who work on American newspapers still have a feeling of freedom. This feeling is drawn from the clear knowledge that newspaper work is bound up with free thought, which is sanctioned as the first law of the land. It will be a long, long time before newspapermen run to government for licensing.

It's the absence of licensing that makes newspapers free. It's the absence of restraints — within responsibility — that define freedom. That's the essential character of our political process . . . that's the essence of good journalism . . . and that's the way we hope it remains.

OTHERS SAY

The Right to Know

More and more informed commentators are expressing concern over an excess of secrecy within the government. The general public, they believe, is being deprived of vital information which it has the right to know.

It is obvious that the secret label must be attached to certain facts and programs involving the national security. But that, certainly, is as far as the withholding of information should ever be allowed to go. The danger is that secrecy may be used to cover up mistakes, misjudgements, and situations which would prove highly unpalatable to the voters.

The right to know is an essential protection for a free people. To deny that right is to use a tool of the dictators.—*Industrial News Review*.

Morning Report:

The other day the American Civil Liberties Union added another one — the liberty of a soldier to pick his war.

For some years, the Union has defended fellows who are conscientious objectors to war in general. If the new idea takes hold, a draftee could be excused from military duty in Viet Nam but might have to serve in the Dominican Republic.

But even in Viet Nam, some guys might only agree to fight in enclaves along the coast; others would favor jungle warfare below the 17th parallel; and some willing to go all the way to the suburbs of Hanoi. All in all, it'll make for an army full of liberties, but the paper work would be impossible.

Abe Mellinkoff



JAMES DORAIS

California Farmers Feel Big Stick in Washington

"No matter how you interpret the situation, it's obvious that big government just doesn't want big farmers."

This is the conclusion of writer Alton Pryor reporting in California Farmer on the latest flareup in the long-standing controversy over federal application of its acreage limitation law to California agriculture. The current dispute centers in the Imperial Valley

Spies in Industry Cost All

A few months ago, three men were found guilty in a court action of having stolen certain drug cultures and formulas. According to the American company which developed them, these drugs represented a research cost of some \$30 million. They were sold by the thieves to an Italian producer which had spent nothing whatsoever on research and development—and so was able to sell them at cut prices.

This has happened before and will happen again unless the proper legal measures are taken, on a national level, to provide severe penalties for industrial piracy and espionage. And, to add insult to injury, our government has purchased drugs produced from pirated formulas because they were offered for less.

An officer of the International Chemical Workers Union has said that piracy has caused the loss of 1,100 jobs in the U.S. Pharmaceutical industry. Worst of all is the inevitable effect such piracy must have on the efforts of this great industry to find new and better drugs.

There are many failures, as is always the case with ventures seeking to penetrate the unknown, and the successful drug must pay the cost of these. But enterprise and the willingness to take risks are dulled when a company knows that its secrets may be stolen and cut-price products based on its own years of research may cut deeply into its markets.

A number of states have passed industrial espionage laws designed to make the theft of industrial trade secrets a dangerous business. Proposed federal laws would prevent government purchases of drugs produced through the theft of such secrets. Other industries, also, have been robbed by the pirates and have a profound interest in corrective measures. But the public interest is the greatest of all.—From the *Industrial News Review*.

where after decades of water service from both private and government sponsored facilities the U.S. Interior Department has suddenly decided that anyone owning more than 160 acres isn't entitled to water from the famed All-American Canal.

The acreage limitation is provided in the 64-year-old federal reclamation act which precluded owners of more than 160 acres — the unit then deemed economically feasible for a family farm — from receiving water from new reclamation projects whose financing included federal funds.

The hooker in the Imperial Valley case, however, is that when the act was passed, farmers in the area were already bringing in their own water as a result of private initiative. Utilizing Imperial Valley water rights on the Colorado River, some dating back as far as 1895, a private company built the old Alamo Canal and began water deliveries to the area in 1901.

Then Uncle Sam got into the act by building the All-American Canal which replaced the Alamo facility in 1942.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Kaufman Becomes Top Spokesman for Teachers

The book trade agrees that Bel Kaufman's "Up the Down Staircase" was the most widely read American novel of the last year (300,000-plus copies). Since its publication Feb. 1, the Avon paperback edition of this funny, sympathetic, impressionistic set of "notes from a teacher's wastebasket" has sold 1.4 million copies. It promises to be the most widely distributed reprint title of 1966.

Miss Kaufman, whose "novel" is a thinly disguised account of her experiences as a New York high school teacher of English, suddenly finds herself "unofficial spokesman" for other American teachers. As she said in a recent interview here, it is a matter of "sharpening pencils." That is, she finds herself talking, postponing the writing.

Miss Kaufman is a sharp, attractive, Berlin-born New Yorker of Russian ancestry who still carries a trace of "foreign" in her speech. For some years she failed to get a regular teaching license because of her accent

Still, however, the 160 acre limitation wasn't applied because, in the years of negotiation and legislation leading to the new canal's construction, Interior had ruled that in view of the prior private investment in and use of the Alamo Canal, the area was exempt from the restrictions of the old reclamation law.

The first ruling came in 1933 and was affirmed through a succession of federal administrations in 1937, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1950 and 1952.

But now, 33 years later, with Secretary Stewart Udall in the saddle, Interior has switched its position and is looking to the courts for affirmation of its change of mind.

"I do not feel that the large scale farm is the only choice nor is unbridled bigness the answer," Undersecretary John A. Carver said recently to California growers.

But farmers in California's Imperial Valley, a rich productive gem wrested from the desert to become a keynote in the state's vital agricultural economy, are wondering if big Secretaries with big sticks in Washington offer a better answer.

and a resulting "over-precision" in speaking English.

Yes, there is another book under way. That will be the hard one after the vast and, to her, unexpected success of "Staircase." People expect a sequel, which the new book probably will not be. She hears from readers,

Books

asking what became of Joe, Raymond or other student characters in the novel. With the reprint edition, the author hears from another audience, high school students, who identify with Miss Kaufman and her mythical big city high school. They ask her advice on their own problems, their nebulous relationships with their own parents and teachers. Some address her as "Miss Barrett" (Sylvia Barrett is the teacher in the novel). Many of these letters are as anxious and poignant as anything Miss Kaufman recorded herself.

The frustrations of the profession she describes in "Staircase," including the memo-happy bureaucracy of it all, has not discouraged student teachers. On the contrary, her mail from this quarter, expressed a rekindling of enthusiasm for the vast potential of the profession. She could not be happier about this. For with all the satire in her literary chalk-talk, Miss Kaufman is a dedicated teacher who tried in her book to emphasize the enormous satisfaction in reaching a pupil, firing him with an idea, guiding him toward a successful maturity in this strange new world.

The film version of "Staircase" is in the hands of Alan Pakula and Robert Mulligan (script by Tad Mosel), who did such a fine screen version of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird." This will be filmed on location in the East, no professional child actors involved. The teacher has not yet been cast — but one feels Miss Kaufman would be the ideal choice for the role.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Abbe Says She Can Label A 'Jerk' in Four Tongues

ABBE LANE, wearing a lime-green dress and a Dior hat she had bought at Macy's (yes!) was curled up in a corner at the Fairmont, sulking. "The day started out all wrong," she pouted, playing with her \$10,000 David Webb bracelet. "A radio announcer said he first saw me with Cugat 20 years ago. How old does he think I am? I'm only 34, after all. Then he asked me if I like theater in the round. 'Everything I do is in round.' As any fool can plainly see. 'I don't like what you people are doing to San Francisco,' she went on. 'Tall buildings should be built on hills, where they add to the view, not in the valleys, where they take it away.' A smart girl (she's singing in the Venetian Room) with a new husband and new son. "Nine weeks old," she said, "and he has already flown in a jet from L.A. to New York to Miami to here. The stork that brought him didn't fly THAT far." Miss Lane, who speaks four languages fluently and was born in Brooklyn, was asked if Abbe Lane is her real name. "My real name," she snapped, "is Abbe Rentz. And don't forget, I know how to say 'jerk' in four languages." We hugged and parted.

ADD INFINITEMS: If you are an airlines buff, you know that Braniff has caused a stir in the industry by painting its jets various pastel shades. So: as a shocking pink job taxed to the end of the runway

ROYCE BRIER

Washington Gave Pomp, Purpose to Presidency

Forty years ago when the history debunkers got around to George Washington, one biographer said he was notoriously indolent.

This is a good example of the dangers of debunking, so-called where you are looking for a slur and can't bother to check the evidence.

For if there was anything Washington was not, it was indolent. From the time he was 18 and taking up surveying, until his death almost half a century later, he was continuously engaged in some of the hardest work to be found in the America of his day.

In his early 20s, when he was exploring the Ohio country, hardships ranged from sobering friendly Indians the French enemy had got drunk, to racing hostile Indians to the near-

the other day, a voice from the control tower cooed: "Okay, dearie, take off!" And it did. With a swish . . . Richard Burton has been nominated for an Oscar for "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold," which is fair enough, but can you imagine what Humphrey Bogart would have done

San Francisco

with that role? Makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

NOTES ON KLEENEX: Writer Gay Talese of Esquire magazine, here to do a piece on Joe DiMaggio, just finished a long article on Frank Sinatra and discovers that these two worthies besides their Italian heritage. The something is hate, at least on DiMag's side. Pardon the lack of specifics, but it's all tied up with the late Marilyn Monroe . . . Deborah "Miss America" Bryant, recently in town, is one proper girl. She walked out on an interview with a radio personality when she found out he does his show from the Domino Club, whose walls are covered with nude paintings . . . Among the chow mengers at Trader Vic's: Novelist Pearl Buck, handling her chopsticks with grace, distinction and Nancy Jackson. These two fine ladies: beating the drums (and picking well-lined pockets) in behalf of the Pearl Buck Foundation, which cares for the thousands of blue-eyed children fathered and forsaken by our GIs in Korea.

"And now, of course," sighs Miss Buck, "there's the same problem in Viet Nam. Our work is never done."

WHAT DO THE ASIANS call Asian flu? One answer, contained in a headline in Hong Kong's English-language newspaper: "American Flu Reaches Epidemic Numbers."

HANG ON, SCOOPY: Ken Kesey, the disappearing novelist is indeed in Mexico, mixing tequila and Kapectate, but he'll be back . . . Basketballer Wilt the Stilt Chamberlain laid \$100,000 on the line to buy a house here from Builder Mike Howell — one angle being that both these cats are under 30 (the kids are taking over!) . . . UC has landed two heavyweight speakers for its Charter Day banquet at the Palace March 25: U.N. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg and John Gardner, Secty. of Health, Education and Welfare; Goldberg's presence, of course, guarantees an anti-war picket line outside . . . Something to fight for: The American Legion, which has been denying membership to Viet Nam vets (because the war is still undeclared), will reverse its policy at its next nat'l convention . . . And finally: An S.F. paratrooper in Viet Nam has written to his aunt here, asking her to rush him a package of "Band-aids, iodine and Q-tips" — a request that only one make you wonder: What are all those billions being spent on?

World Affairs

and owned over 100 slaves. Mount Vernon and his other land holdings got him up at 6 in the morning. As a leading Virginia citizen, he was a target for every moocher in the Tidewater, and there were endless demands on his time.

It was this experience, perhaps, which gave him the reserve in later life which has done so much to damage his image among his countrymen. Yet he was an inveterate card player, and something of a wine-bibber, and his close friends such as the frisky Dr. Franklin, did not consider him cold.

The Revolution was hard work, with bad food and not enough sleep, and that even harder work which attends perpetual frustration. During the war he wrote, mostly in his own hand, 17,000 letters to Governors and other Colonial leaders begging men, money and equipment.

By Yorktown, 1781, Washington saw Mount Vernon as a sort of paradise where he could find rest—this longing ran through all his letters and conversations. But Mount Vernon was a run down through neglect, and needed a lot of work.

Here again the visitors swarmed in, not moochers, but the great of the new nation. They came to talk about what to do next, as

the Confederation gave only the illusion of nationality. In 1788 he was back in the harness at the Constitutional Convention, and he never really escaped the harness, because everybody had to see him when he left the Presidency. Washington gave pomp to the Presidency with purpose. He believed it gave strength and durability to the new nation, and he was right for the time of beginning. Mere politicians feared Washington's integrity, and he disliked politicians and politics. In this he was opposite of Lincoln, but it is possible that Lincoln in Washington's place or Washington in Lincoln's, would have been failures.

Quote

Not many young fellows are trying to set the world on fire. Most of them prefer to burn up the highways.—Joe Harrison, Dickens County, Tex.

I demand equal status with men in all fields of endeavor because I firmly believe I am not only as good as any man but am decidedly superior to some.—Jean Wilson, former WAC.

If I were Lyndon Johnson, I'd ask Congress to establish a new department . . . the department of ethics, morals, and righteousness.—Judge Boyd Leedom, NLRB examiner.

I hope the day never comes when women don't inspire the protective feeling in men.—George Christoph.

There are good marriages, but no delightful ones.—Municipal Judge Noel Cannon of Los Angeles.

If the current paperwork growth continues in state and local government, by 1990 the filing cabinets laid end to end would stretch from Sacramento to Los Angeles.—Governor Brown.

